

## **Joint P-16 Budget Request**

### **Local P-16 Councils**

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#### **What are local P-16 councils?**

In March 2001, the State P-16 Council (the Commonwealth's pre-kindergarten through baccalaureate advisory group) invited the leadership of public and independent colleges and universities, school districts, adult education providers, early childhood educators, and civic organizations (including business and labor) to form local councils to create a seamless system of education meeting the needs of students and the Commonwealth. The local P-16 council initiative brings the agenda of the State P-16 Council to the level of individual institutions and school districts. These partnerships address issues of teacher quality and supply, alignment of high school and adult education with postsecondary and workforce expectations, and greater policy and programmatic integration between and among all sectors of education to address Kentucky's workforce readiness and economic development needs.

#### **How much of the Commonwealth is served by local P-16 councils?**

Kentucky now has 21 local or regional P-16 councils linking all levels of education with workforce and economic development needs and serving approximately two-thirds of the Commonwealth. Kentucky's success in creating this statewide infrastructure of local councils has been nationally recognized.

#### **How does the program work?**

Local P-16 councils support significant local high school and GED-to-college and workplace transition initiatives (including dual enrollment/credit opportunities, early diagnostic assessment and intervention for college and workplace readiness, curriculum alignment initiatives, postsecondary preparation and aspiration outreach, and postsecondary scholarship incentives). Local councils have supported and also spearheaded policy initiatives at the state level.

#### **What is the budget request?**

The joint request of the Council, the Department of Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board through the Education Cabinet proposes \$2.7 million in recurring funds to sustain and expand local P-16 reform initiatives and to provide resources to advance the research base for P-16 policymaking.

#### **Why is additional funding needed?**

As a result of unpredictable and insufficient state level funding, local P-16 councils function primarily as voluntary local efforts guided by the State P-16 Council agenda. For their work to be sustained and expanded, local councils will need regular and reliable support for staffing along with funding for the continuing development of local initiatives consistent with, and contributing to, state policies.



*Photo source: NKU*

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